

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Harold Gottsch
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Interviewer: Ron Williams
BOLD PRINT is CCC enrollee
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DNR: I am interviewing Harold Gottsch from Pocahontas, talking about his CCC experience. Go ahead.

I joined the CCC in of January of (pause). Well, I can give you the date after a bit. I and the kid from Dickens was the only two there that went to Milford that went to the C's and I think the county took me up there, but my first job was working on the trail at Gulf Point. We cleared all the grass off and stuff and patched them down and put gravel down.

That was my first job and before they were all through they moved me over to where the latrine were, there was two that were built out of rock. They had me splitting rock and we did that with that big sledgehammer that hit one side that was pointed. That was the side that you hit the rock.

You had to really study the rock before you started pounding because all of them weren't the same. Some seem to have a core like a piece of wood, but anyway they would split easier one way than they would another. And we wanted a flat side for the outer surface. I split rock for that and I got called down to the big house the big building and there was on the front side, oh 2/3 of the way up on the front side there, up the rock, something about this big. I helped them put that up there at that was a job. (Laughter)

DNR: You are talking the front side is that the lakeside?

No the backside. Then lets see from there then they transferred me up to the custodian's house up there. I was splitting rock there too. Wasn't like being in prison. (Laughter)

DNR: Close. (Laughter)

Well, I enjoyed my whole time in the CCC's. Everything did go cum see cum sa but anyway from there the crew that I worked with we went up to north end of Spirit Lake. I can't remember the name.

DNR: Maybe Waukon

It was pretty well up already but they had moved that crew some place else to a different camp probably I don't remember. We worked there and finished that up just shortly before we had it really finished they elected Herb Lighter of Spencer maybe Dickens. He was our crew leader and they sent Herb and the members of his crew down to Missouri Valley. If I remember right there was 12 of us total. And what we had to do was the carpenters had the barracks all built and everything and we were the first ones there and we had to go around and a lot of clean up and stuff like that to get ready for the crew to come down from Milford dam.

And I think that took oh, if I remember right it was almost a month before they moved the whole camp down there then. And from there we worked on the Solider Creek levees, just clean up jobs on the levees, trees, weeds and so forth. And then and I can't remember I was in there 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{3}{4}$ of a year, I don't remember exactly what day I was discharged. I asked for a discharge. Before I get to that in the summer of 36 and winter of 36 you probably heard of that, the weather of 36. Solider Creek flooded, and of course the Missouri flooded and Missouri Valley had water clear up to the depot. So civilians boys kicked right in and put in a couple of boats by the Missouri and went out to a couple of farm places that were covered with water and carried the people back to the Missouri Valley.

One thing I will never forget about it was that we got one old guy out of his farm house and I suppose we were 2 or 300 feet from his house after we picked him up and he looked back and he saw the top end of his pitch fork still leaning against the barn and there was about 3 feet of water there and he wanted us to turn around and go back and get it. Well we were all tired and grumpy; a lot of us had work 24 hours you know.

And we wouldn't go back; I'll bet that guy still hates us. (Laughter) Shortly after that the camp was moved over down and around Carroll down in there someplace, I can't remember the name or how long it lasted there I have no idea because by that time I was working with Rick Sheffield. I was a butcher and just completely forget it but there was one friend, one guy Wendell Romaine. Well he worked in the office but he was the one that went around everyday and checked the building and if somebody had to do something or get a letter from home or something like that. He wasn't really what you would call a porter or anything like that he had an official duty to be supervisor just under the Army Corp. Romie is dead and his wife lives at Hartley.

Other than that as I go along I can think of things. But that winter of 36 was a rough one we even had to go out a shovel a mile of snow for a funeral. That was a bad winter and spring. I think if you ask some question maybe I can tell you more.

DNR: OK. It will go along here and anything you want to rattle of on just head off on there. So where was your hometown in the first place?

Sutherland, Iowa.

DNR: Sutherland ok. Do you remember what age you were when you went in the first place?

I was born in 16. I was about 18.

DNR: What did you do before going to the CCC camp?

Well, 2 summers there I worked on a farm at Rembrandt and that was between my senior years. Well I come back to go to school I went the first day of my senior year and when I got home that evening my mother told me that my dad was really sick. And he worked for the dragline at that time and then I took over his job, as money was scarce. Anyway I helped them out for about 3 months and at the end of that year was when he was well again and back to work, that I joined the C's. Farmer

was the only job I ever had before, well I shouldn't say ever, I did help unload a carload of coal a few times.

DNR: Then why did you pick the CCC organization to join at that time?

Why did I pick it?

Well, there were no jobs and nobody had any money and well I guess I just thought it was time to get away from home and that just seemed that the CCC was a good place to go.

It sort of intrigued me and I did enjoy it and I guess the main reason was that I wanted a job, I wanted to do something but I didn't want to be at home. At home it was getting crowded, I had a brother and a sister and things were getting crowded down in the little house and I had been away enough for the last two summers working on a farm in Rembrandt, that was one job they would take you. I think if you were crippled they might have taken you. (Laughter)

DNR: Do you remember anything about the process you went through to get into the CCC camp enlistment, who did you talk to about it?

Well, I talked to someone at Primghar about enlisting and evidently he had something to do with getting me up there, then somebody out of the office they took me to Milford where I was sworn in and examined health wise and all that. That was the main reason, no work at home and no money at home.

DNR: Do you remember anything you took with you to camp or didn't have anything to take with you?

No, I didn't take anything with me except the clothes I was wearing, probably an overcoat or jacket and as soon as I was sworn in and examined by the Doctors they issued me all new clothes, underwear, shoes, socks, pants, shirts the whole works and a work outfit and blue jeans. I don't remember about the shirt now exactly I don't think it was probably an Army color. It was all Army clothes anyway that they issued.

DNR: Did they issue you anything else like toilet items, toothbrush, cologne, and soap?
If they did I don't remember.

DNR: So did you get up there when they had buildings or were they still in tents?

No, no the buildings were built they had been were moved. The had been in Spencer and were move to Milford as soon as the barracks were done. I was probably one of the first groups of people to be in the barracks up to Milford, but I am not sure. I do know they were at Spencer then moved to Milford. The barracks were new when I got there. They were a little primitive too.

DNR: I think you said you got there in 1933, do you remember what time of the year?

It was 34 I think, January of 34 and it was cold, it was winter.

DNR: How were the buildings heated?

Coal stove.

DNR: Was it in the middle of the building?

It was in the middle of the building.

DNR: So did you fight to get a spot next to the stove or did they just assign you a bed?

They just assigned me to a bed and each one of us some time or another would get coal stove duty for an evening. Had to keep that a going.

DNR: Were they just single level beds, or were they bunks beds?

No, they were single level beds. I am sure of that.

DNR: The buildings were just wood framed buildings?

Wood framed building no insulation or anything like that. I don't know if there are many of them left up there at Milford or not.

DNR: According to the chapter in that book, Down Memory Lane, still is part of a mess hall, but everything else is pretty well gone, that is my understanding.

I know when I drove past there last summer it didn't look familiar to me.

DNR: Did you get a bed with a good mattress or did you get a straw mattress, or do you remember?

I don't remember, but I don't remember having any trouble sleeping on it or anything. It was a good mattress. What it was filled with I don't know.

DNR: Do you remember blankets?

The blankets were the Army style blankets.

DNR: Did you get enough blankets?

Yes it was fine.

DNR: Did you have sheets too?

I think we did, I am not sure about that now. If we did have we had a laundry room that we all used. Now that is something I can't remember. We must have had sheets. Just right now I can't imagine sleeping on those wool blankets without a sheet. (Laughter) It never really bothered me that much.

DNR: Do you remember some of the other people that were in your barracks? How many were in your barracks?

Oh, 40 maybe.

DNR: They were pretty good sized barracks.

They were long. Maybe they weren't that big. I seem to remember more about the barracks at Missouri Valley. Probably 30 we all had single beds that were 5 ft apart.

DNR: Do you remember the names of any of the other people who were in your barracks?

Herb Lighter was in there.

DNR: You mentioned that you went in with a fellow from Dickens was he in the same barracks?

No he wasn't, I think he worked as a typist up in the officers building, if I remember right. He came from Dickens; if it come to me I will give you his name.

DNR: Too far back, too far back. (Laughter) So what do remember about everybody getting along, did they get along good pretty good?

Any barracks that I was in we all did we got along pretty well. We were sort of like brothers. Some joking around and stuffing someone's bed with something. No fights just like a whole bunch of brothers. I was only in two one at Milford and one at Missouri Valley.

DNR: Apparently they had a mess hall there. Some of the camps just had a mess tent. **We had a mess hall.**

DNR: Do you remember anything about the food?

Food was good, the only thing I didn't like is that we got lamb once in a while and I didn't eat because of that.

DNR: Why didn't you like that?

(Response inaudible)

DNR: Some of the camps had a chef and other just took somebody out of the camp, do you remember who helped him?

I don't remember who they were but they were no they were camp people just like I was. Some of them were older than I was. I don't know how they got there training to cook but I think it was up to Missouri Valley and up to Milford too.

DNR: So if the food was on the table you ate it and that was it. Did some of the people in the camp go on KP duty and have to help peel potatoes and things like that or were there a regular schedule.

I don't know how they worked it, but I think they went through the whole work of people and we were assigned to KP duty for a week and I don't remember how often or anything. But just about everybody there was a peon at one time or another for KP duty.

DNR: Do you remember being there at all over a holiday period; remember anything about the meals that might have been served at holiday time.

I was there for a lot of the holidays. I do think they put themselves out a little more for holiday's meals. I do remember exactly, it seems like we had turkey once.

DNR: What was the normal food that you did have for various meals?

Oh, chicken once in a while, but mostly it was beef and potatoes and a vegetable of some kind. I think we got a lot of fruit too it seems like. I can't remember too much

about the food. It couldn't have been bad or I would have remembered that. (Laughter)

DNR: What did they give you for a beverage to drink at the meals?

Coffee in the morning, milk and water. I don't remember ever getting anything like lemonade. There was always coffee for every meal.

DNR: What did you have for days off, were they weekends off?

Weekends, Saturday and Sunday.

DNR: Were you able to go home some?

A lot of times I went home, I was lucky there was a kid from Peterson that was in the camp and he had a car and so I would ride back with him every weekend. And then somebody from Sutherland would come over to Peterson's and pick me up. It wasn't long a couple of boys from Galena had come in and there name was Tulnder. I could ride back to Sutherland with them and when they would go to Galena they would stop back and pick me up late Sunday afternoon. I was just lucky there, I didn't have a car and I didn't have the money to buy one or anything. I am pretty sure their name was Tulnder. There were two of them and I don't know if they were brothers of cousins or what.

DNR: Do you remember what your payday was and how that was dealt with?

Payday was once a month we got \$5.00 and \$25.00 went home to our parents. The pay was \$30.00 a month but all we could get personally was \$5.00, our folks got the rest of it. And at that time it helped the folks a lot and get my brother and sister through high school. Or sometimes I would wonder what in the devil did they do with all of that money. (Laughter)

DNR: They were probably wondering what you did with that \$5.00. (Laughter)

Well one thing, I never smoked so I didn't had that problem and mostly what my \$5.00 went for was like soap, toothbrush and occasional candy bar. I was canteen clerk for a while too, that is when I quit. The last year I was in there I was the canteen clerk. And I think cigarettes were 10 cents a pack, candy bars were a nickel, that was all about that was in there really a good selection of candy and cigarettes.

DNR: Did they pay that \$5.00 to you in cash or canteen books?

Yah we did get it in a canteen book.

DNR: You didn't get any cash at all?

We did get \$5.00 in cash and then we went and bought a canteen book, they were a dollar. Sometimes we would run out of cash and we would run out and go begging.

DNR: Do you remember how many coupons were in the canteen book?

It was a dollars worth and I think they were all 5 cent coupons.

DNR: Do you remember anything in regards to Sunday; was there a worship service at all in the camp?

There was a worship service, but I didn't attend too often. Because most of the time I went home every chance I had.

DNR: I am sure there were other activities in camp sponsored since it was the weekend do you remember what you or other folks did on off duty time?

I can't remember.

DNR: Was there some sports activities?

I really don't think so.

DNR: Being that close to the lakes, did you go up to the lakes and go swimming?

We did that at Milford we would just walked to Milford or to the lake. We did that a lot of times. But it reminds me before we went to Missouri Valley, that crew and then didn't know what to do with us for a while and we went up to Arnolds Park and was cleaning up the shorelines along through there. I had forgotten that.

DNR: Cleaning up trees and brush?

Yes, cleaning up trees, brush and rock.

DNR: It wasn't much litter then at the time. You wouldn't think.

Well, there was some. Yah, but we didn't do that too long, I doubt if it was over two weeks that I remember right know. But I had forgotten we did clean up before we went to Missouri Valley we did go up there and clean up around the shoreline there at Arnolds Park.

DNR: There is a state park area up there, just south-southwest called Pillsbury Point State Park. That goes right out to the shoreline, kind of a CCC built stone benches and does that ring a bell at all?

Not for me, I wasn't in on that part of it.

DNR: It is all in the city limits at Arnolds Park. Did you ever have any personal conflict?

No, I never did.

DNR: Did anyone ever play a trick on you that you did not appreciate?

No, there were plenty of tricks played.

DNR: Tell us about it.

Well somebody put a cat in somebody's bed I remember that one time. They tied shoelaces in knots sometimes. I really don't remember but it was all good naturedly done. It never caused any ill feelings or anything like that it never did

DNR: You get that many people together for a long time there is bound to be some conflict once in a while. Do you remember anything that happened at all? Or maybe how it went off or dealt with?

No, I really can't. At the barracks I was in and maybe I was lucky, but it seemed like the twelve of us went down to the Mississippi Valley were out of the same barracks in Milford and even got some of the same kids that were in our barracks too. But I don't know we were just a group of guys that got along real good with. Some of the guys had money and it always seemed like some of the guys were always asking to see if they could borrow a buck.

But there was no ill feelings or anything in the barracks that I can remember. If it was done secretly or something, I didn't know about it. Well, Herb Lighter was our chief, the high man in the barracks and if Herb said to quiet down or anything like that he was big enough or looked up to enough that he kept good peace, I guess.

DNR: From what I understand you normally had a bed check about 11 o'clock. Did people miss that once in a while for some reason?

Well, I don't think I ever did, but yah; it was missed by some of them once in a while.

DNR: Do you remember what the punishment or discipline was used on those rule breakers?

Well, as I remember if you missed bed check they got you up early in the morning and sent you over and sent you over to the chow house to help get breakfast. (Laughter)

DNR: So do you remember any other types of discipline for anybody?

No, I don't, I don't remember any cops coming around.

DNR: In that book Down Memory Lane it tells about an incident where a couple of CCC boys out in an open camp were raised on the running board of a car near Terrace Park and got side swiped by a car and one boy was killed. Do you remember that at all?

No, I don't.

DNR: I think that was in 1935.

It might have even happened the 2 weeks that we were down. We might have been down in Milford. I don't remember that anyway.

DNR: If I read the article maybe it would bring up some of the things that you forgotten. In some of the camps Harold, they had some sort of educational programs for trade opportunities. Do you remember any of those?

Yah, oh yah. Down in Missouri Valley they had a typewriting class.

DNR: Did they have a class in log splitting?

You learned that out on the job. (Laughter)

DNR: Ok, now who taught you how to split rocks? I had heard once that there was a stonemason that came out on the job.

I don't recall that, I think they just sent me out to that crew and handed me the hammer and another guy who always worked with me already knew how. But yah, I wasn't taught especially it was just learned on the job training or whatever you want to call it. There was never any problem. I had a little problem that I thought which way I thought it would split, but I think as time went by that was even got easier.

DNR: So one person would hold the chisel and the other person would hit it with the hammer. Is that how it would work?

Yah. The hammer was one type was that way and the top was flat and you would hold that on the rod and then you would hit it.

DNR: So you had a long handle to hold the chisel.

Oh, yah.

DNR: How well did you trust that other guy on the hammer?

I don't think we ever got anybody that had that much...

DNR: We talked some about these educational opportunities, you don't remember participating in any of those trainings?

I did take typing for a little while.

DNR: I am not sure what all courses were offered there at Gull Point, but one fellow told me he took a carpentry class and a metals class he took one on traffic safety. Do you remember any of those? Do you remember if there was a separate building that was an educational building that had classes?

Oh there was at Missouri Valley if I remember right. But for some reason or another that part of it just doesn't ring a bell at all. When I was younger and I have kicked my self a hundreds times since, I really what you would call a good student, I got by but later in life. It was January 2nd of 1935 and I was there and every month there was someone that was quitting or coming in. But a lot of these people I don't ever remember the names. Now Dale Perdein wasn't CCC he was from Greenville and he was in charge of a work crew that was doing something special.

DNR: So you did have various work crew leaders, do you remember the rock splitting crew?

There was a crew that toured the country picking up rock off farmers farms ground. That is where all that rock came is from the farms around Milford.

DNR: Was there a leader of the group that was splitting that you were working with do you remember who that was?

That was Herb Lighter, Herb was also laying stone too but he was teaching kids to lay stone. I never got that far with him and I don't really know why outside of that one rock I helped him get up there. (Laughter) Took a little extra.

DNR: You said Herb was the leader in the barracks too so he basically made work assignments to people in the barracks? How was that handled?

Everyone in the same barracks didn't go to the same job that I did most of them did. Herb was the leader, and he said hey you are cracking rock today. You didn't have to ask him too many times, because you knew that was your job and you went and did it. I did once towards the end when things were gradually really starting to come together Herb set me up to and I think they are gone now but there was two big wooden gates at the entrance to the park, are they still there?

DNR: The gates are still there. They have been rebuilt.

I did work a week on that chiseling out so that they would fit together. Oh there are a lot of thing that I have forgotten I am telling you. But Wilbur Tracbarnard (sp), I don't remember what he did. Harvey Bogart, If I remember right he was one of the cooks or head of the cooks. Lewis Lois was an old man from Spencer that I don't know what crew he had but he had a crew.

DNR: What do you mean by an old man? (Laughter) Thirty?

No, no he was World War I veteran; we had 2 or 3 guys like that. For us at that time they were old men.

DNR: Did they serve more in a leadership capacity? Were they part of the regular Army yet?

No, no.

DNR: If you had that many guys in the barracks you had to have some disagreements?

Mostly joking like they were going to kick each other's butts or something.

DNR: Now these hammers, malls and wedges how did you get those each day? Did you have to carry them to the work site or put them in the tool crib or check them out?

No, they stayed in the truck overnight as I remember. There was a tool crib but I don't think the peons had to go to the crib to get a tool unless your leader instructed you too. But that is funny about the little things like that I can't remember doing.

DNR: Now you said you had a lot of farm experience you grew up on a farm. With the farm kids and the city kids and sometimes a little difference of opinion on how to do things between them, do you remember any of that entering into to it?

No, I wasn't a farm kid, but I worked on a farm for 2 summers down at Rembrandt. And I worked for Mrs. Hannah Lorenzo her husband left and she the farm and 3 boys and was a good friend of my mothers and she needed another helper and the four of us boys did all of the farm work and she had a ½ a section of land and it was done with horses. A lot of hogs to feed and we milked 10 cows every morning and at night her she never had any daughters she had a hired girl they would go out and get the cows in the evening and maybe milk one or two but now it was get up at 4 o'clock and fall in bed at 9 o'clock at night at night for a measly \$10 a month and board and room.

DNR: Do you remember anyone from camp that was from a minority group? Some of the camps had them. But I don't find many in Iowa camps.

I don't remember ever having any. If there were a colored person there I surely would have remembered that. I don't recall if there ever was.

DNR: The skills that you learned in camp were you able to use them after you left camp?

When I left camp I went to work for a grocery store over in Sheffield Iowa and I got the job over there because of a kid that was in camp with us. His name was King and he came in after I did. He was from Marion if I remember right he was in for a while then he quit and then he went over to Sheffield and worked in a grocery store over there they were looking for more help and Kind new I was out. He called me and wanted me to come over and look for a job. That was \$18.00 a week. He stuck me in the butcher shop end of it and I learned to carve meat and cut up meat, pork chops and so forth.

When I quit over there well I got in a rowel with the boss and I got fired. (Laughter) I went home and I worked in a pool hall for a while and about that time my folk bought a Ma and Pa restaurant and I helped them. Oh and the first summer after I left over there I went to work for a road crew grading, building up roads and my job and 2 other guys our job was when there was big trees along one side of the road that had to be out. It was our job to blow them out so I kind of learned how to handle dynamite at the time and where to dig under the tree to get the most effect out of it. I made good money there, but that was just summer work and then it was over with.

And it wasn't long after that I met my first wife and got married and did odd jobs for a while. I did a lot of upholstery work, night cop for Sutherland for 2 or 3 years and drove a school bus over there for 8 years and that didn't pay but \$70.00 a month. I drew just my regular check and nothing went into IPERS. And so when I quit being town cop and school bus driver I just left my IPERS in there and \$ 900.00.

For the first few years after I retired up until 3 years ago I got \$61.00 a month out of my IPERS. About 3 or 4 years ago, they were building up the IPERS fund they were making too much money. Social Security was running up the IPERS in Iowa but they boosted me from \$61.00 a month to \$252.00, now if you don't think that is worth a big raise. (Laughter)

DNR: Good return on the money.

You bet. Oh really I think I got my money back on that \$200.00 a month to begin with.

DNR: Did you have any involvement in the military after the C's?

Oh, I was drafted into, well after I was married with two kids, I was drafted for World War II and I went into the Navy and took my boot camp North of Chicago at a Navy camp, Great Lakes. I was shipped out to Seattle and to kill time I worked in the commissary there. And then they took me out of there and we all were sitting there waiting for assignments or something.

I suppose we were there a couple of nights, but then they put us on ship and we were suppose to go to Barcelona but the war ended before we got to Honolulu. When I got there you got off there and they put me in the commissary and said, "You're a man with two kids, we don't want you." (Laughter)

They gave us points, being married was so much points, age was so many points, children were so many points, and the length of time you were in there was points. And my points came up real fast. I was only in the Navy a year and most of it was spent in Honolulu.

DNR: That wasn't such a bad deal.

No it wasn't, I wouldn't mind going back there once but people knew me that are out there talked to me about it and they said that I would never like it. It is nothing like it was in the days I was there. You won't like it.

DNR: Harold do you remember any injuries that you received with all those flying chips of stone?

No, I never received any, there were some guys that broke their legs and one guy got hit in the side of the face with a rock chip. There wasn't too much of that. We were pretty careful. If they thought one job was to dangerous for one man to do and the could put 2 men on it and take all of the odds away from the job away from getting hurt, that is what they would do. They were very good at things like that. They didn't want you sick lying in the hospital.

DNR: Did you have a camp Doctor or did they use the town Doctor?

I can't tell you at Milford; no I think they had a Doctor. Down in Missouri Valley I know it was an Army Doctor. I had hurt my back lifting logs up over the levees down there and we had a temp hospital down there and I was in the hospital a couple of weeks with that. And when I got discharged, "Well lets see you had an injury here with your back, will you sign this that we didn't hold you to anything, if you don't sign it were send you to Des Moines for a while." Well yah, I was wanting the hell out of there. It was the most foolish things I ever did. I have had problems with my back ever since. I could lift up a little piece of paper and it wouldn't bother me today, but tomorrow I would reach down and was going to pick up another little piece of paper and 'whango' just like that. I would run up to the chiropractor and it sort of helped.

Well, it got so over the years that it didn't help anymore. I went to the Doctors and they haven't done me any good and with arthritis setting in that doesn't help either. I would just love to go do some work and exercise a little but I can't. If I go down the basement and work a little bit or something like that and get back here my back hurts so dam bad I just have to come and sit here in my chair and also I have a prostrate cancer right now and had a 5 way bypass and a pacer and a defibrillator and had my salvia glands removed.

DNR: You're a new man. Right.

I have scars from here to here to here etc.

DNR: Enough on that. You remember any problems in camp with any diseases or infections or pneumonia or flu.

No there wasn't a lot of it. I don't know what they did with the people up in Milford. I can't recall if they had a little hospital on the base or not. I don't remember that. In Missouri Valley we did have, I think there were 6 beds. It was one of the camp members that was in there all of the time. But he was under the camp Doctor.

But you know in them days when I hurt my back that way they left me in that hospital for two weeks and they even got in a lady nurse, just because I was sick, I guess there was somebody else in there, I was sick with a backache, I really wasn't sick and I was, but I was. There was another guy in there that had pneumonia or something, but they had a lady nurse. She was a nice gal, but that is all that ever happened to me in camp.

DNR: When you were working in the camp at Milford, did you have any contacts in the outside community? You said you would walk up to the camp or up to the lake, would you meet anybody out in the community that you became friends with?

I'm not one to go but in. I am a loner it seems like, well it just happens that way. I always have been alone working. Night Cop, school bus driver, this that, so no even when the drafting I was alone there for a year and then by the time I ended there I had the title of being ...I roamed the working area where the machines were set up so on and so forth and it was my job to see if they were doing it right. Of course I was still with the engineering department and at that time they had three other draftsman. It was a good job for me I got \$300 bucks a week. There is nothing wrong with that.

DNR: When you were in camp you didn't meet any girls.

No that happened later. I guess I did meet one girl. She was pretty nice but it wasn't the right one.

DNR: Did you recall any sort of problems with men in the camp and in the community? Sometimes they might be dating a girl that somebody decided to protect.

If they did I never heard about it. I don't think so.

DNR: When you lived in the CCC camp how do you think the community respected the men of the camp? Were they thought of as lesser people or were they looked at as good natured?

Well, down in Missouri Valley we were looked on as a pretty good group of people to have around. And God knows we did a lot of things for that town. But up at Milford I don't really know. I didn't stay up there any more weekends than I had too. And in the evening I was generally too dam tired to go running around and such.

DNR: What was your most memorable experience that you can characterize on at the CCC camp? Splitting rock? (Laughter)

I tell you when we get through with the tape. When you spend a day splitting rock you were ready to go to bed at night.

DNR: Can you remember any particularly odd experience that stuck with you through the years?

Not really.

DNR: So what do you figure is your biggest contribution to the CCC camp.

Well I always did my job, no complaints I did my job the best that I knew how. I think they should have some type of camp today. Enough so for the kids who are so short of money like we were back in them days. A dime was a hell of a lot of money. But I think a camp like that for some of these kids would be good, I really do.

DNR: Do you feel this experience in the CCC camp was very beneficial?

You bet I would never want to change my life because of that. I did do two things. I did meet quite a few boys and we became friends, some real good ones like Wendell Romie. In fact when he got out of camp he went to work at Petersons. He married a girl from down where ever that camp went after I left, but I helped him move. We visit back and forth and then he got a better job at the newspaper working there.

Very good friends, if we weren't up to his place on Sunday he was down to our place on Sunday and the kids grew up together and he was a good guy.

His wife was nice they had some kids and he didn't have any sons they were all daughters. One of his daughters died, one daughter lives in Alaska and the other one lives in Texas. We were just real good friends.

DNR: You established some life long friends.

When Wendell died, oh it must be about 15 years ago. The oldest girl has never gotten married she did have one child. She goes to Washington DC quite often and oh what do those people do when they go in there? Try to get you to do this or that.

DNR: A lobbyist.

Yah, and the youngest girl was Wendy and when she was little and ran around I called her Windy and she would kind of get mad at me, but she would get over it. Now I had a letter from Wendell's wife yesterday and the daughter in Alaska has become a book author. She writes books, she sent me a letter, and I just got it yesterday. She sent a newspaper clipping about Wendy's becoming an author of a book that is out know and she was telling me where to go to find it the book. I wish I new when Wendy was coming back to Iowa I would take the book to her to autograph it.

END OF INTERVIEW